AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of elevating a dendritic cell precursor level in the blood in a patient in need thereof, said method~~ for promoting immunotherapy comprising:

1) administering to a subject an effective amount of ~~MIP-1α or a functional derivative thereof to said patient~~ an agonist compound selected from the group consisting of MIP-1α, BB-10010, MIP-1α which is chemically modified with partially alkyl-esterified styrene-maleic acid copolymer or polyethylene glycol derivative, and BB-10010 which is chemically modified with partially alkyl-esterified styrene-maleic acid copolymer or polyethylene glycol derivative to elevate concentration level of dendritic cell precursor in peripheral blood of said subject;

2) collecting dendritic cell precursor from peripheral blood in said subject;

3) proliferating and stimulating said dendritic cell precursor with a disease antigen in vitro; and

4) returning said dendritic cell precursors obtained by the step 3) into said subject, wherein the resultant increase in the concentration level of dendritic cell precursor in the peripheral blood of the subject is indicative of improved immunotherapeutic effect.

25. - 29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said administering step is performed parenterally.

31. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said subject is a human or other mammal.

32. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said agonist compound is MIP-1α.

33. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said agonist compound is BB-10010.

34. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said agonist compound is MIP-1α which is chemically modified with partially alkyl-esterified styrene-maleic acid copolymer or polyethylene glycol derivative.

35. (New) A method for promoting immunotherapy according to claim 24, wherein said agonist compound is BB-10010 which is chemically modified with partially alkyl-esterified styrene-maleic acid copolymer or polyethylene glycol derivative.